

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 6 - 20, 62 – 65, and 70 – 75.

1. cancelled
2. previously cancelled
3. cancelled
4. – 5. previously cancelled
6. – 20. cancelled

21. (allowed) A scaffold system comprising at least one first support and at least one second support and at least one locking and securing device for removably securing and locking the first support to the second support, the locking and securing device having a means for securing the first support to the second support, the securing means being movably attached to the first support and being movable between a secured position and an unsecured position with respect to the second support by using a force at a substantially coaxial center point of the securing means; and a means for locking the securing means to the first support when the securing means is in the secured position in the second support, the locking means being integrally formed with a handle;

the securing means and the locking means being rotatably moveable about a longitudinal axis extending through the securing means, the locking means being longitudinally moveable along the longitudinal axis thereby allowing the securing means to be moveable between the secured position and the unsecured position and thereby

allowing the locking means to be moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position;

wherein the second support includes at least one opening for receiving the securing means when the securing means is in the secured position;

wherein the first support includes a channel member for receiving a portion of the second support when the first support is secured to the second support;

wherein the channel member defines at least one opening for receiving a portion of the securing means;

further including at least one guide rail socket for receiving one end of a guide rail, the guide rail socket being adjacent and substantially parallel to the channel member; and

wherein the guide rail socket defines first and second openings that are in opposing sides of the guide rail socket for receiving a portion of the securing means.

22. cancelled

23. previously cancelled

24. – 46. cancelled

47. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing means includes a securing pin and a handle positioned in a spaced apart relationship to and at substantially the center point of the securing pin.

48. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the securing pin is positioned at an angle with respect to the first support.

49. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the handle is integrally formed with the locking means.

50. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the locking means includes an engaging means for engagement with the first support when the locking means is in the locked position.

51. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 50, wherein the first support is operatively connected to an engagement means for engagement with the engaging means of the locking means.

52. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 51, wherein the securing means is positioned at an angle with respect to the engagement means and extends through an opening in the engagement means.

53. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing means further includes at least one biasing means for holding the securing means in the secured position.

54. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 53, wherein the securing means further includes a second biasing means for holding the locking means in the locked position.

55. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 54, wherein the first biasing means and the second biasing means are coaxially positioned on the securing means.

56. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 55, wherein the first and second biasing means are spaced apart from one another by a rivet pin extending radially through the securing means.

57. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim 48, wherein the securing ~~rivet~~ pin is positioned in the securing pin at substantially a midpoint along a longitudinal length of the securing means.

58. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the handle and the securing pin are at an angle with respect to each other and are in the same plane with respect to each other.

59. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 58, wherein the locking means includes an engaging means which is in a spaced apart relationship to the handle and is positioned at an angle to the handle, the engaging means and the handle each defining planes that are perpendicular to each other.

60. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 59, wherein the second support defines an engagement member for engagement with the locking means when the locking means is in the locked position.

61. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 60, wherein the engagement member is operatively connected to the first support.

62. – 65. cancelled

66. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing means has no threaded portion.

67. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the locking means has no threaded portion.

68. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing and the locking means are secured by being rotated about one half turn.

69. (allowed) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing means and the locking means are secured by being rotated about 160° to about 180°.

70. – 75. cancelled